

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT

TOPIC 1. Reservists Training at a Rocket Launcher Battalion in Uherske Hradiste. 25X1

2. Troops and Military Installations in Uherske Hradiste and Gottwaldov.

EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1

DATE OF CONTENT  25X1

DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 23 June 1953 25X1

REFERENCES  640463 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS  25X1

This is UNEVALUATED

1.  25X1

80 to 100 reservists who belonged to the 1922 to 1926 classes. These reservists were of various professions, and ranked from private up to junior lieutenant.<sup>1</sup> After being pledged to secrecy, the reservists were organized into groups and, as far as source heard, shipped to Kromeriz (P 50/N 52), Olomouc (P 50/N 85), Uherske Hradiste (P 50/T 09), Slavcin (P 50/O 30), and Holesov (P 50/O 12).  a group of 15 men was first taken to the barracks installation in Holesov where  40 other reservists including men from Valasske Mezirici (P 50/O 34).  25X1

a rocket launcher battalion was stationed there.<sup>2</sup> 25X1

In Uherske Hradiste, there were 32 reservists who were led by a junior lieutenant. On 4 March 1953, each man was issued a training uniform including blouse, pair of trousers, cap, underwear, rucksack, tarpaulin, overcoat, belt, field bag, and pair of shoes. Training started the same day and stressed the handling of rocket launchers. The men received political indoctrination twice a week, basic infantry training without weapons and instruction on manuals and interior duty. 25X1

2. The motorized rocket launcher battalion (raketometny oddil) and other units was quartered in the barracks installation on the north side of the road to Jarosov (P 50/O 10), on the eastern perimeter of the city. The battalion was commanded by a senior lieutenant, whose deputy was one Senior Lieutenant Lenger (fnu). The battalion which had 230 to 240 men, was organized into three batteries, each of which consisted of two platoons. Each platoon was organized into two sections, each of which was equipped with one rocket launcher. The batteries were commanded by lieutenants. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets without arms insignia. Source heard that the battalion was subordinate to an artillery commander in Kromeriz.<sup>3</sup> The motor-transport equipment of the battalion included rocket carriers, motorcycles, and Praga RN and Skoda Tudor trucks. The rocket carriers were mounted on GMC trucks. 25X1

Two of the six members of the crew sat in the driver's cab, while the other four occupied a bench at the rear of the driver's cab. The launcher whose designation was "model RM-130 rocket launcher" (raketomet 130), had 32 rocket tubes with rifled barrels which were arranged in four vertical columns of eight tubes each. Each rocket was 80 cm long and had a caliber of 130 mm and a weight of 24 kg. The maximum range was 10 kilometers. A salvo fired from one launcher 25X1

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL/

- 2 -

25X1

covered an area 200 meters in width and 50 meters in depth.<sup>4</sup>

3. On 20 March 1953, the entire battalion went by train to the Orenlaz (Q 49/C 72)<sup>5</sup> training grounds in Slovakia. The journey took one night. After a short drive on their motor vehicles the men pitched their tents. When four days had elapsed the reservists were sent back to their station on trucks. About 20 officers wearing leather overcoats watched the record firing practices. No Soviet officers were observed. Source observed a crater, 1 meter deep and 4 or 5 meter<sup>25X1</sup> in diameter, made by one of the rockets. Another rocket had hit the root of an apple-tree, 40 cm thick. The trunk and the root had been torn out and was found about 8 meters from the point of impact. The top of the tree had disappeared.

the term of service for senior enlisted<sup>25X1</sup> men who were scheduled to be discharged in April was extended by half a year, because soldiers were scheduled to take part in major record firing practices at Orenlaz in the summer of 1953.

4. While training in Uherske Hradiste, the reservists were also shown a model RM-150 rocket launcher whose construction was fairly similar to that of the model RM-130 launcher. The rockets of this launcher had a caliber of 150 mm and were mounted on Tatra 111 trucks. After their discharge the note "trained as RM-130 gunner" (Vycvicen jako obsluha RM-130) was entered into the reservists' service books.<sup>25X1</sup>

5. Prior to late March 1953, the barracks installation occupied by the rocket launcher battalion also quartered an infantry battalion which was referred to as the "27 prapor Liptovsky" by some soldiers of this unit. On the occasion of the commemoration of Stalin's death, the battalion lined up for review with four companies. The soldiers carried submachine guns or rifles. On the occasion of exercises source observed light machine guns with the battalion, heavy machine guns mounted on two-wheeled carts, recoilless rifles, and Tarasnice AT weapons. In the barracks area, source observed two tanks which, according to fellow-soldiers were T 34 tanks. Source believed that other tanks were also available since the tank garages consisted of 10 bays all of which were occupied. He also observed three German-made armored personnel carriers and some small armored track-laying vehicles. Another unit quartered at the same installation was a reconnaissance battalion of about 100 men who wore red epaulets without insignia. This unit was equipped with small armored track-laying vehicles. In addition to these units the installation also quartered an officer candidate school of about 150 men whose trainees were about 17 years old.<sup>25X1</sup>

6. Training sites at the station included the so-called "Na Rochusi" (near the Rochus chapel) area, about 1 kilometer northeast of the barracks installation, in vineyards, and a small drill ground, just south of the installation between the street and the football field. The station ammunition depot including the target ranges was located in a wooded area 3.5 kilometers east of the installation and about 1 kilometer northnorthwest of Popovice (P 50/T 19). Source knew of no other military installations in the station area. The former old barracks installation on the west side of Stadtplatz was occupied by a local committee.

7. Since April 1953, the former boarding house of the Bata School in Gottwaldov, which was known by the name of "Tomasov", had been occupied by soldiers of an unidentified branch of service. The billets were located on the edge of a woods, about 1 kilometer south of the town. Headquarters and other military agencies located at Gottwaldov prior to late December 1953 included a military district headquarters (KW), which was located in a park in the center of the city, one recruiting district headquarters (OVV) located in a former convent on ul. Prehradni opposite the building of the fire brigade and military construction personnel subordinate to an office in Olomouc.

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/

- 3 -

1. Comment. Several previous reports indicated that members of the 1923 class were ordered to report for three or four weeks' reservists' training courses in the spring and summer of 1953. 25X1
2. Comment. Presumably the 99th Rocket Launcher Battalion. 25X1
3. Comment. The 27th Mech Regt of the 13th Mech Div is carried in this installation. The rocket launcher battalion is reported for the first time. It is believed that it also belongs to the 13th Mech Div. 25X1
4. Comment. The model of the rocket launcher cannot be determined. It is noteworthy that the launcher reportedly had rifled barrels, while Soviet models have so far been equipped only with tracks. 25X1
5. Comment. Otherwise known as Oremov Iaz. 25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/

25X1